and prepare a comprehensive action plan to reduce the same to a minimum. The Committee also considered the recommendations of the earlier Committees *i.e.* Kohli Committee and La Fontaine Committee on flight safety. The Committee submitted its report to the Government in August, 1997.

Out of total 84 recommendations made by the Committee, 53 have been implemented, 21 are under various stages of implementation, while 10 are treated as closed as it is not possible to implement them.

Capability of Arjuna

1331. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether the shooting range and capability of "ARJUNA" has somewhat come down while its weight has increased;

(b) if so, how far its capability has been reduced and weight increased, compared to the capability envisaged originally; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The shooting range, firing accuracy and other capabilities of main Battle Tank, Aujun are meeting the General Staff Qualitative Requirements (GSQR) of Army.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

Review of Treatment Meted out to Tehelka Journalists

1332. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the manner in which the Tehelka Journalist have been treated in the past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Representations were received by the Government from the Tehelka group. These representations are under examination of the Government.

Purchase of MIG-29K as Part of Gorshkov Deal

1333. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's purchase of 16 MIG-29K fighters from Russia as part of the Admiral Gorshkov aircraft carrier deal has run into rough weather and;

(b) if so, the details about the delay of the deal finalisation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. *

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Department of Ex-Servicemen

1334. SHRIMATI S.G INDIRA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Department of Ex-servicemen to address their grievances better;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the proposed Department will look into various post-service requirements of ex-servicemen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MKHERJEE): (a) The Government have already set up a separate Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare under the Ministry of Defence.

(b) The Department is headed by an Additional secretary. For coordination purposes, Defence Secretary will provide the over all supervision within the Ministry of Defence.